

## **GOLDEN CROSS SENIOR MINISTRIES**

Kristi H. Owens, Executive Director

The mission of GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries: To enhance the quality of life for all seniors served by Wesley Living.

2022 celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries. What began as a need for affordable housing for seniors has grown into caring for nearly 2,200 seniors in 31 affordable Wesley Living housing communities throughout West Tennessee, Murray, Kentucky, and Jonesboro, Arkansas.

100 percent of all donations to GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries directly benefits seniors served by Wesley Living. For the past 25 years, we have sought to ensure that donations designated for seniors have not been used for operational cost. This has been possible through the generosity of our board of trustees, growth of the endowment, and proceeds from the Annual Golf Classic, which will be held September 8, 2022.

GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries relies on donations made by members of churches in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. We receive little funding outside the amazing generosity shown through offerings and responses to donation requests. These donations help to transform the lives of seniors — one need at a time.

There are three main initiatives of GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries: The Resident Fund provides individual residential support as well as monetary resources to Wesley Living communities for social and recreational activities for residents. The Homeless Initiative provides interventions for homeless seniors moving into a Wesley Living community with new basic furniture pieces and a move-in kit containing all of the basic necessities needed to restart in life. The Endowment Fund represents a permanent lasting gift protecting the future.

In 2021, \$50,031.19 was spent on funding for community-wide social events; \$42,449.37 for basic new furniture and move-in kits for homeless seniors; \$44,202.20 was used to provide a catered holiday meal and a gift for every senior resident at GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries; and \$10,507.65 helped provide direct assistance to 23 residents who needed a helping hand.

A senior resident served by GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries, Mr. David, writes a salient reminder, “Some younger people are on their way up. They set goals pertaining to family, friends and living...older people are at a loss for setting goals — family and friends have either passed or fallen away. We are on our way down and out — SAD! The main goal is to live — another day, another month, another year — by God’s gracious will. Nonetheless, the small things in life mean the most when you have the least. Thank you, GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries!”

Your support, prayers, encouragement, and donations are much more than a blessing for the seniors we serve; they are things that matter the most to those who have the least. Rev. Jerry Corlew, founder of GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries, had a vision for this ministry 25 years ago that was based on Matthew 25: “Whenever you have done these things to the least of these, my brother and sister, you have done it unto me.”